



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project Clears U.S. Senate Floor**

*Approximately 9,460 acres of wetland would be restored*

Santa Rosa, CA – The U.S. Senate on July 20 passed the Water Resources Development Act, which would authorize federal participation in construction of the Napa River Marsh Restoration Project. Supported by U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, the passage of the Act now heads to a conference committee where legislators will reconcile the Act to a similar House bill, H.R. 2864 supported by Representatives Mike Thompson and Lynn Woolsey in 2005.

“The passage of the Water Resources Development Act in both the House and the Senate illustrates the high level of Federal interest and priority to restore the Napa River Salt Marsh,” said Randy Poole, general manager of the Agency. “U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer, along with Representatives Woolsey and Thompson, have worked diligently on this issue and should be commended for their successful efforts.”

The Napa River Salt Marsh Project (Project) would use reclaimed water from cities near the San Pablo Bay to clean and restore ponds and land degraded by years of industrial salt production operations. Approximately 9,460 acres, nearly 15 square miles, would be restored to tidal wetland and managed pond habitat. The bill authorizes construction of a recycled water pipeline to provide water necessary for the restoration effort. After restoration has been achieved, the recycled water pipeline will become a reliable source of water to farmers to irrigate crops.

In total, the Project will cost \$100,500,000 with an estimated Federal cost of \$64,000,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$36,500,000. The majority of the non-Federal cost share is expected to be provided in the form of lands, in-kind services and funds from State Water Bonds that state voters have approved. The California State Coastal Conservancy is the local sponsor of the Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would coordinate work on the Project with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and their water reuse projects in the region.

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*